

Pray For Us

8-10-25

Hebrews 13:18 (NIV)

Pray for us.

The upcoming verses that we will look at this morning don't seem that in-depth or challenging. It is a basic Christian request, "Pray for us." But then I practiced what I preached and looked at the context. Here at the end of 13 chapters of powerful Apostolic teaching, the human author of this God Breathed Word says, "Pray for us." This powerful man of God has an urgent need, and he knows where the power is. The power is with the people he has led to Christ, taught, and disciplined. These are the people in which he has a close relationship. As Hebrews 11:6 says, "They know God exists and rewards those who seek HIM." This mutual relationship of teachers and those being taught is evident throughout Scripture. Notice how the Apostle Paul addresses his spiritual children.

1 Corinthians 4:15 (ESV)

For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Likewise, we have the Apostle in Hebrews saying, “I have taught you everything I can, and now I need your prayers.” This clearly shows that leaders in the church need the prayers from the believers in the church.

Hebrews 13:18-19 (NIV)

¹⁸Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way. ¹⁹I particularly urge you to pray so that I may be restored to you soon.

The wording indicates that this Apostle was well acquainted with the people. In verse 19, it is noticeable that he uses the singular *I urge you*, which identifies him alone. Also, the word “particularly” means something like “more abundantly,” and “beyond measure.” He is abundantly pleading with them to pray for him. There is something outside the Apostle’s control that requires urgent prayer. Therefore, the Apostle asks for prayer from the people whom he loves and trusts, his spiritual children. They likewise are the people who love him and trust him. This is the relationship that should be evident between church leaders and members.

Thessalonians 5:25–26 (ESV)

²⁵ Brothers, pray for us.

²⁶ Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss.

The Apostle Paul often speaks of the deep love he had with those he led to Christ. He refers to Timothy as his beloved child. These are the people we entrust with our personal prayers, because we know them, love them, and we know they love us.

Romans 15:30 (ESV)

I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf.

The apostle Paul says, “By the love of the Spirit strive for me in prayer.” Of course, church leaders need prayer. But the greater lesson is the recognition that the power is in the body of the believers, the church. This why Spiritual Leaders ask for prayers from their spiritual children, from their church, from those who love them. 3John gives a good picture of the relationship of a spiritual father with his spiritual children.

3John 1-2 (NIV)

To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love. Dear friend, I pray

Now verse 4, the Apostle John expresses his joy in his friend.

3John 4

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

Leaders ask prayer from those they love, because they know that they likewise love them and will pray passionately for them like Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 32:17 (ESV)

Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.

We pray passionately for those we love deeply.

--Young mother praying for her baby--

So I ask you Pray for me and pray for the elders:

Colossians 4:2–3 (ESV)

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us.